

Good afternoon,

I am writing in reference to SB 942 the Governor's education proposal. I want to refer specifically to the part of the proposal that increases funding to magnet and charter schools while flat funding ECS. Over the past five years funding for Charters and Magnets have increased by 68% while funding for local public schools have increased by 8% during that same time period. Charter and magnet school continue to use the application process and interviews to filter students. Because of this the most needy students continue to be educated in local public schools. Specifically, New Britain continues to be dramatically underfunded compared to other DRG I districts and has one of the lowest per pupil student expenditures in the state. This is in one of the highest poverty districts in the state.

Despite this low funding the New Britain school district has committed to reducing the achievement gap in the graduation rate by opening a new program for over aged/under credited students. The students in this program include some who started in magnet programs and were counseled out because of low achievement. While magnet and charter school are spending funds on advertising to attract students local districts struggle with higher class sizes and outdate materials.

Continuing to dedicate significantly more education dollars to schools that don't serve our most needy students is why Connecticut continues to have an achievement gap among the highest in the country. I strongly recommend that any increase in education funds go to local priority school districts.

Michael Foran
Principal
NBHS Satellite Careers Academy